

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

HOLLY YENCHA, individually and on behalf  
of all others similarly situated,

*Plaintiff,*

v.

ZeobIT LLC, a California limited liability  
company,

*Defendant.*

Case No.

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff Holly Yencha (“Yencha”) brings this Class Action Complaint and Demand for Jury Trial (“Complaint”) against Defendant ZeobIT LLC (“ZeobIT”) seeking relief for injuries that it caused to her and a putative class of similarly situated individuals through its deceptive design, marketing, and sale of its software. Plaintiff, for her Complaint, alleges as follows upon personal knowledge as to herself and her own acts and experiences and, as to all other matters, upon information and belief, including investigation conducted by her attorneys.

**NATURE OF THE ACTION**

1. ZeobIT develops software, called MacKeeper, that it claims enhances a Macintosh computer’s (“Mac”) speed, performance, and security. MacKeeper does this, says ZeobIT, by detecting and eliminating harmful errors, as well as security and privacy threats.

2. Unfortunately, as described more fully herein, ZeobIT uses a common deceptive scheme to trick consumers into purchasing and continuing to use its MacKeeper software, which ultimately fails to deliver the utility that ZeobIT promises.

3. On its websites and in paid online advertisements, ZeobIT makes specific

representations about MacKeeper's ability to remove problems that cause Macs to run slowly, pose security risks, and otherwise negatively impact a computer's operations. To demonstrate MacKeeper's alleged utility, ZeoBIT offers consumers the ability to download a free "15-day trial" version of the software.

4. Once installed, MacKeeper prompts the user to conduct a diagnostic scan. This scan purportedly detects errors that lead to the problems identified in ZeoBIT's marketing materials (*i.e.*, performance issues, security and privacy threats)—problems that MacKeeper is supposedly designed to fix.

5. Upon completion of the scan, MacKeeper invariably reports in alarmist fashion (using both graphics and text) that thousands of detected "issues" are causing the Mac to be in "Critical" condition. The trial version of MacKeeper will "fix" a limited number of the issues, but the consumer is encouraged to purchase (typically at a cost of \$39.95) the full, registered version of the software to fully repair the computer.

6. Contrary to ZeoBIT's marketing and in-software report, however, neither the free trial nor the full registered versions of MacKeeper *perform any credible diagnostic testing* of a Mac. Instead, ZeoBIT intentionally designed MacKeeper to invariably and ominously report that a user's Mac needs repair and is at-risk due to harmful (but fabricated) errors, privacy threats, and other computer problems, regardless of the computer's actual condition.

7. Average consumers generally lack the requisite technical expertise to understand MacKeeper's underlying functionality, and thus trust ZeoBIT to honestly and accurately describe the software's functional capabilities and to identify and remove harmful errors from their Macs as promised. ZeoBIT betrayed that trust, and as a result, thousands of consumers have been (and continue to be) duped into buying and continuing to use MacKeeper.

## **PARTIES**

8. Plaintiff Holly Yench a is a natural person and resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

9. Defendant ZeoBIT LLC is a limited liability company existing under the laws of the State of California, with its headquarters and principal place of business located at 440 North Wolf Road, Sunnyvale, California 94085. Defendant conducts business throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, this District, and the United States.

## **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

10. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2), because (a) at least one Class member is a citizen of a different state than Defendant, (b) the amount in controversy exceeds \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs, and (c) none of the exceptions under that subsection apply to this action.

11. This Court has personal jurisdiction over ZeoBIT because it conducts significant business transactions in this District, solicits consumers in this District, and because the unlawful conduct alleged in the Complaint occurred in, was directed to, and/or emanated from this District.

12. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because Defendant conducts significant business transactions in this District, solicits consumers in this District, and because the improper conduct alleged in this Complaint occurred in, was directed to, and/or emanated from this District (*i.e.*, Plaintiff purchased the software at issue in this District). Venue is additionally proper because Plaintiff resides in this District.

## **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

### **I. An Overview of ZeoBIT.**

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13. ZeoBIT is a private company that develops so-called “utility software”—that is, software designed to improve a computer’s performance in some respect. ZeoBIT has quickly achieved success in the utility software industry with its flagship product, MacKeeper, one of the first utility software tools developed specifically for Macs.

14. On its website, ZeoBIT claims that it has spent “years” developing MacKeeper, and that the software is “an essential tool for your Mac . . . [and] an easy way to manage routine tasks and keep your Mac secured, clean and running fast!”<sup>1</sup> As demonstrated below, however, an examination of the software reveals that these statements are unsubstantiated.

### **II. ZeoBIT Tricks Consumers into Purchasing and Continuing to Use MacKeeper Through a Common Deceptive Scheme.**

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15. ZeoBIT aggressively markets MacKeeper through online advertisements—available via search engines and affiliated websites—and on its own websites as software designed to enhance a Mac’s performance and protect it from security and privacy threats.

16. A consumer searching the World Wide Web for software to repair a poorly functioning Mac, remove harmful errors, or stop their computer from freezing will likely encounter ZeoBIT advertisements for MacKeeper substantially similar to those shown in Figures 1 and 2 on the following page.

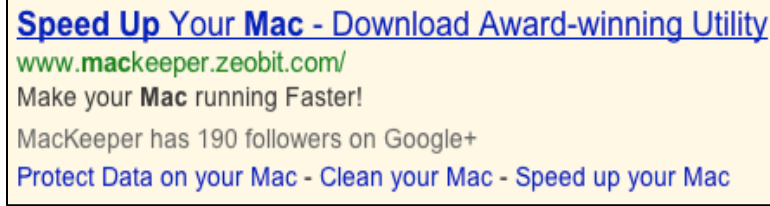
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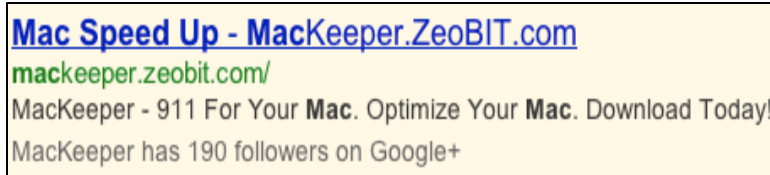
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<sup>1</sup> Do You Love Your Mac, <http://mackeeper.zeobit.com> (last accessed April 28, 2014).

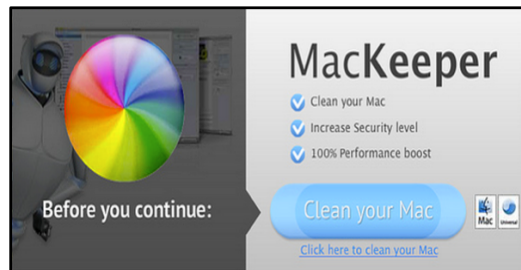


(Figure 1.)



(Figure 2.)

17. ZeoBIT also uses targeted advertising to display MacKeeper ads specifically to Mac users browsing the World Wide Web. These pop-up advertisements describe MacKeeper's purported capabilities, including its supposed ability to remove errors, improve computer speeds, and enhance a Mac's security and general performance. (See Figures 3–6, showing screenshots of targeted online pop-up advertisements for MacKeeper.)



(Figure 3.)



(Figure 4.)



(Figure 5.)



(Figure 6.)

18. Clicking on an advertisement or hyperlink for MacKeeper directs a consumer to a ZeoBIT website, where frightening “facts” like the following are presented about the dangers associated with prolonged use of a Mac:

- “The World Wide Web is the most vulnerable place for Mac security.”;<sup>2</sup>
- “More than 30% of drive space on an average Mac is taken up by junk files.”;<sup>3</sup> and
- “If you use your MacBook frequently and actively, be aware that over time more and more memory resources will be consumed, decelerating your MacBook. Slow Internet, increased login time, hard drive packed with junk - all of this leads to poor performance of your MacBook.”<sup>4</sup>

19. Regardless of where on the World Wide Web the consumer sees these statements, on that same page ZeoBIT invariably recommends downloading MacKeeper to repair and/or prevent the problems identified above. To further encourage the user to download the software, ZeoBIT details the purported benefits of using MacKeeper. Yet these descriptions misrepresent MacKeeper’s true utility.

**A. ZeoBIT uniformly misrepresents MacKeeper’s utility.**

20. In addition to explaining the supposed errors and security threats linked to using a Mac, ZeoBIT also provides a description of MacKeeper’s utility. In particular, ZeoBIT expressly warrants on its websites that MacKeeper will perform the following tasks:

- “Protect [your] Mac from all kinds of Internet fraud”;<sup>5</sup>
- “Clean your Mac quickly and safely”;<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> MacKeeper Includes the Following Security Features, <http://mackeeper.zeobit.com/security> (last accessed April 28, 2014).

<sup>3</sup> Macbook Slow Internet Solutions, <http://mackeeper.zeobit.com/macbook-pro-running-slow> (last accessed December 29, 2012).

<sup>4</sup> *See id.*

<sup>5</sup> MacKeeper Includes the Following Security Features, <http://mackeeper.zeobit.com/security> (last accessed April 28, 2014).

<sup>6</sup> MacKeeper Includes the Following Cleaning Utilities,

- “[F]ind[] and remove[] all junk files on your hard drive”;<sup>7</sup>
- “Boost your login time”;<sup>8</sup>
- “Speed up your Mac in 5 Minutes!”;<sup>9</sup> and
- “[R]emove all harmful files that threaten your privacy.”<sup>10</sup>

21. But these representations do not accurately reflect MacKeeper’s true capabilities.

The truth is that, at its core, MacKeeper performs two main functions: (1) it provides limited antivirus and firewall protection and (2) deletes “superfluous” temporary files in whole and in part.<sup>11</sup> These operations do not come close to squaring with ZeoBIT’s sweeping representations about MacKeeper’s functionality. For instance, and as discussed more fully below, neither will appreciably improve a computer’s speed or boot time, prevent the common causes of system freezes, nor otherwise provide the benefits ZeoBIT promises.

22. Because of the impression created by ZeoBIT’s assertions about MacKeeper’s utility, consumers reasonably believe that the software detects and repairs errors and other Mac problems as advertised. To validate this belief, ZeoBIT designed MacKeeper to appear as though it performs actual analyses of consumers’ Macs and report frightening results. But this too is just a part of ZeoBIT’s scheme.

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<http://mackeeper.zeobit.com/cleaning> (last accessed April 28, 2014).

<sup>7</sup> See *id.*

<sup>8</sup> MacKeeper Includes the Following Optimization Features, <http://mackeeper.zeobit.com/optimization> (last accessed April 28, 2014).

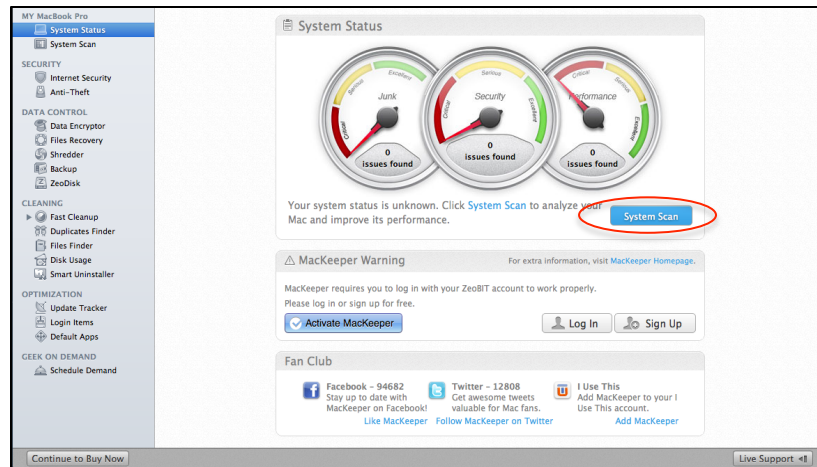
<sup>9</sup> Speed up your Mac in 5 Minutes – Easy 3 Steps!, <http://mackeepers.com> (last accessed April 28, 2014).

<sup>10</sup> Macbook Slow Internet Solutions, <http://mackeeper.zeobit.com/macbook-pro-running-slow> (last accessed December 29, 2012).

<sup>11</sup> For completeness, in addition to these primary functions, MacKeeper also provides various file and system settings manipulation utilities. Like MacKeeper’s main antivirus/firewall and temporary file deletion functions, these also do not significantly improve a computer’s speed, boot time, or stability.

**B. ZeoBIT intentionally designed MacKeeper to misreport benign issues as errors in order to induce consumers to purchase and continue to use the full version of its software.**

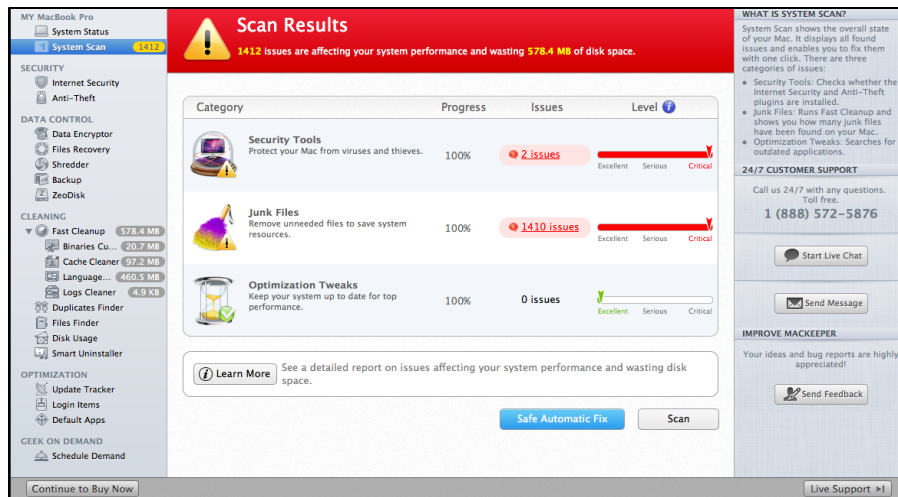
23. After a consumer downloads and installs MacKeeper, the software immediately warns that a diagnostics scan should be performed to analyze the computer and “improve its performance.” (See Figure 7 below, showing a screenshot of MacKeeper’s initial user interface.)



(**Figure 7.**)

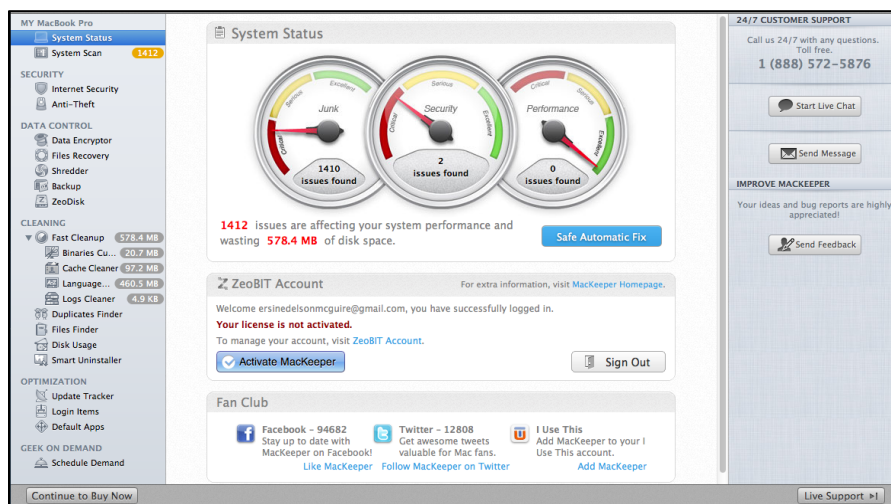
24. After clicking the “System Scan” button (circled in red in Figure 7 above) and completing the diagnostic scan, MacKeeper displays a red banner at the top of the screen with an exclamation point and warning that thousands of detected issues are affecting “system performance” and “wasting disk space.” (See Figure 8 on the following page.) Three graphic meters also appear proximate to assigned categories (“Security Tools,” “Junk Files,” and “Optimization Tweaks”) along with a “Level” indicating the condition of the Mac in each of these categories. *See id.* The “Level” meter for the various categories range from “Excellent” to “Critical” depending on the number of issues detected. *See id.*





(Figure 8.)

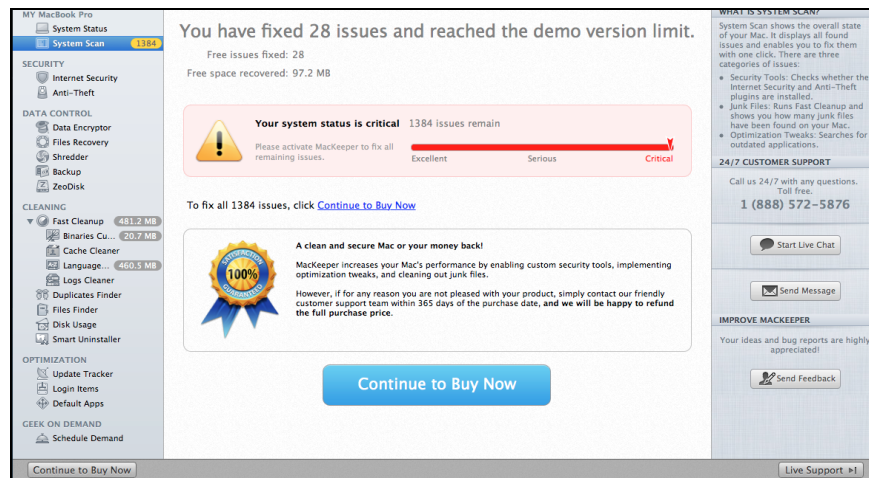
25. Navigating to the “System Status” category in the software’s navigation bar reveals gauges that supposedly represent the user’s “Junk,” “Security,” and “Performance” levels—which range from red (critical) to green (excellent). (See Figure 9 below, showing a screenshot of the MacKeeper interface indicating that the user’s “Junk” and “Security” levels are “Critical,” with needles pointing in the red.)



(Figure 9.)

26. Although these depictions of the Mac’s condition appear ominous, the truth is that MacKeeper’s alarmist scan results are simply scare tactics—common to this industry—used by ZeoBIT to frighten consumers into purchasing and continuing to use a full version of its software. For instance, with respect to the free trial version of MacKeeper, although ZeoBIT

claims that the 15-day trial version of the software is “fully functional,” it only fixes a small number of detected issues. To completely remove the errors that MacKeeper claims are causing the Mac’s “Critical” condition, the user must purchase the full version of the software. (See Figure 10 below, showing MacKeeper reporting that the user’s “system status” is “Critical” after fixing only 28 of the 1,412 issues detected, recommending purchasing the full version of the software to fix the remaining issues.)



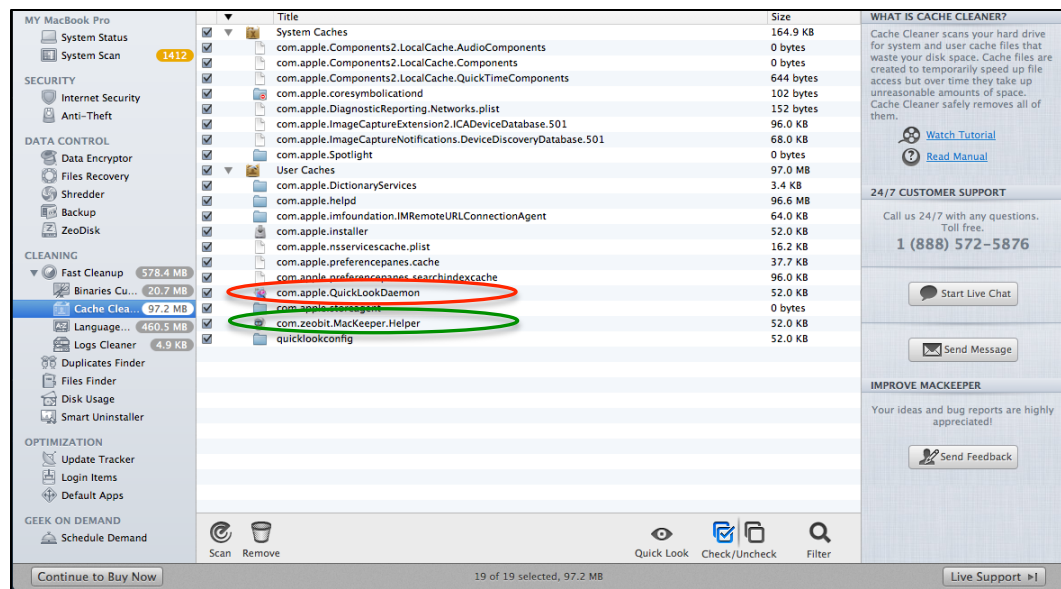
(Figure 10.)

27. A closer examination of MacKeeper’s scanning engine reveals the free trial and full registered versions of the software actually detect issues on a user’s Mac based on arbitrary metrics that cannot credibly be relied upon to assess the condition of their computer and also artificially inflate the number of issues detected, which causes the software to invariably report the Mac’s “System Status” as “Critical.” Ostensibly these representations scare the user into believing that the computer is damaged or at-risk, and that the purchase and continued use of MacKeeper is necessary to “fix” these problems and improve the system’s security and operation.

28. To illustrate this point, consider that each of the screenshots above (showing MacKeeper detecting thousands of issues and reporting “Critical” system statuses) are results

from scans conducted on a *brand new computer*. From this finding, it necessarily follows that under MacKeeper's reporting algorithm even brand new computers are in "Critical" condition and require repair by purchasing the full version. As a result, MacKeeper will report for virtually every user that their Mac is in "Critical" condition.

29. To demonstrate, consider Figure 11 below, which shows a list of innocuous cache files<sup>12</sup> detected and reported by MacKeeper as issues that require repair (and contribute to the system's "Critical" status).



(Figure 11.)

30. These cache files are automatically generated in the normal course of a Mac's operations. For instance, the "com.apple.QuickLookDaemon" item circled in red in Figure 11 and listed as harmful is typically created when a user opens a certain type of folder. Another entry detected as harmful, "com.zeobit.MacKeeper.Helper" (circled in green), is generated by *MacKeeper itself*. This means that, according to the software's algorithm, simply running the MacKeeper software itself will create harmful errors. Moreover, once these files are deleted, they

<sup>12</sup> A "cache file" is a temporary file generated by system software or user software to speed up certain data-access operations.

are automatically regenerated. Thus, users are guaranteed to continually see the software “working” as it detects new false “errors.”

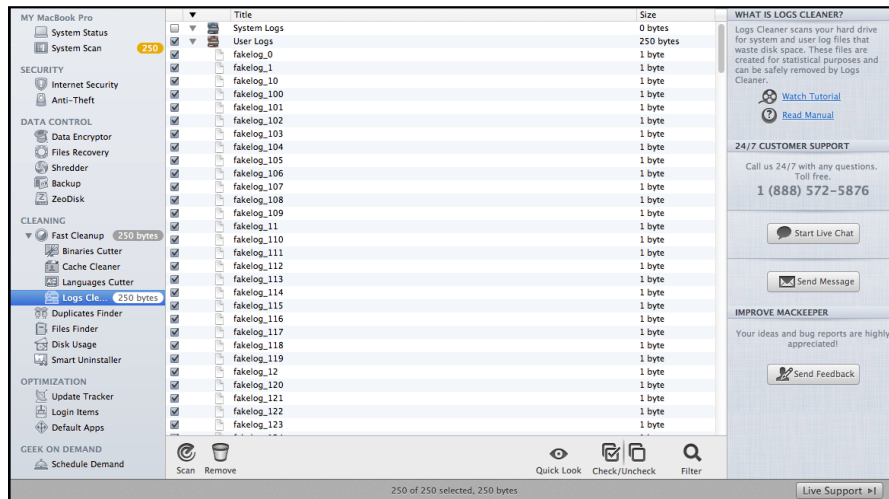
31. Not only is MacKeeper designed to artificially inflate the errors reported to users, the issues detected do not actually negatively impact a Mac’s operations. For example, MacKeeper reports that the cache files discussed above, as well log files and system-related application data that comprise much of the “Junk Files” cause a Mac’s “Critical” condition.<sup>13</sup> But the presence of these files has no appreciable impact on a computer, let alone the type of impact that would cause a “Critical” system status. The reason that MacKeeper reports these files as harmful is plain: the more errors the software detects, the easier it is to justify the alarmist meters and gauges showing that the user’s Mac is damaged and needs repair.<sup>14</sup>

32. Ultimately, a close examination of the MacKeeper software shows that the software does not perform any meaningful evaluation of files before characterizing them as harmful to a Mac’s system status. By way of example, the following screenshots show MacKeeper detecting 250 fake, empty, and entirely innocuous log files and reporting that they were pushing a Mac’s “Junk File” System Status to “Critical.” (See Figures 12–14 on the following page: Figure 12 shows the 250 fake log files and Figures 13 and 14 show MacKeeper reporting the fake log files as causing a “Critical” system status under the “Junk” category).

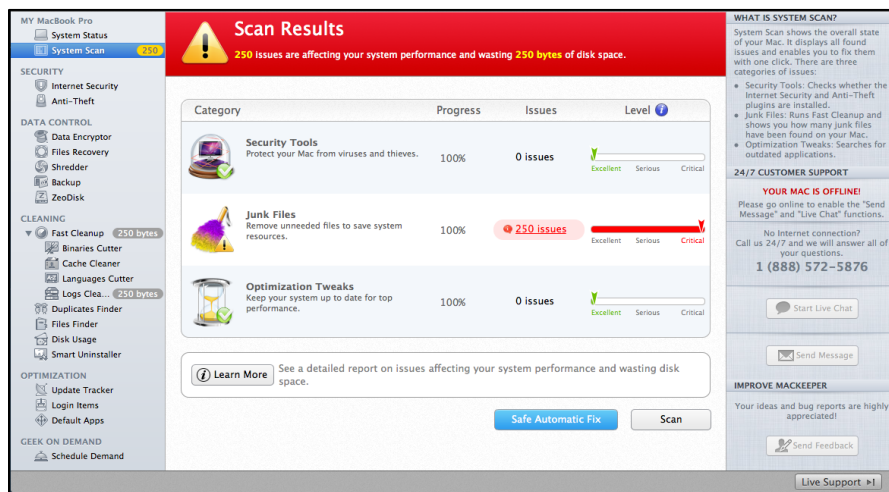
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<sup>13</sup> “Log files” are records generated by system software or user software that detail some aspect of the history of the computer’s operations.

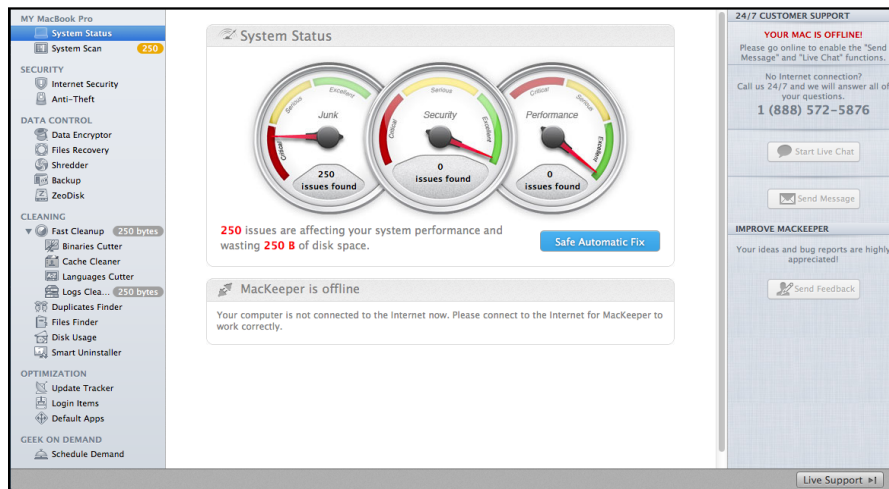
<sup>14</sup> Studying the results of a series of diagnostic scans performed using MacKeeper further reveals that a diagnostic scan that detects between 50 and 249 junk files results in a “Serious” System Status level, while 250 or more detected files results in a “Critical” System Status level. These metrics are wholly arbitrary.



(Figure 12.)



(Figure 13.)



(Figure 14.)

33. To reiterate, the fake log files shown in Figure 12 are entirely innocuous log files that have no appreciable impact on the performance of a computer. The fact that MacKeeper detected them as harmful, however, confirms that the software does not actually assess the true nature (or severity) of items detected before characterizing them as harmful, or reporting that the issues affect system operations.

34. Furthermore, even after purchasing the full, registered version of the software, MacKeeper continues (by design) to falsely detect and report errors in the same fashion. Presumably these techniques were intended to defraud users into believing that the continued use of the software is necessary to repair so-called errors and improve system performance, and that the software is functioning as advertised.

35. Through the deceptive scheme described above, ZeoBIT has profited, and continues to profit, by defrauding consumers into believing that their computers are severely damaged and/or at risk, and that the purchase—typically for \$39.95—and continued use of the MacKeeper software is necessary to “fix” these problems. But, because the software does not actually provide the benefits advertised, ZeoBIT does not deliver on its promises.

### **III. ZeoBIT Continues its Deceptive Practices in Disregard of the Changing Utility Software Industry.**

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36. Unfortunately for consumers, ZeoBIT is not alone in its use of the sorts of fraudulent programmatic design and marketing practices at issue in this case. Rather, the utility software industry has been fraught with these tactics for over a decade. It is only recently, however, that software developers—like ZeoBIT and its competitors—have been called to account for profiting off of unknowing consumers.

37. Indeed, numerous lawsuits have been filed against well-known competitors of ZeoBIT (e.g., AVG Technologies)—including several by Plaintiff’s counsel here—which allege



similar claims related to the fraudulent design and marketing of utility software products. Several of those cases have resulted in classwide settlements and industry-shaping software modifications, which compel the implementation of far more transparent error detection and reporting procedures.

38. Rather than follow suit and make the changes necessary to ensure that its software truthfully detects, reports, and repairs harmful errors, ZeoBIT has continued its unlawful business practices and profits from them to this day.

#### **IV. Plaintiff Yench's Experience.**

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39. In late 2014, Plaintiff Yench performed a search on the World Wide Web for software that would optimize and improve the performance of her Mac and that would otherwise eliminate privacy and security threats. One of the results displayed was a ZeoBIT advertisement for its MacKeeper software that was substantially similar to those depicted in Figures 1 and 2 above.

40. After viewing Defendant's advertisement for MacKeeper, Yench navigated to one of Defendant's websites (<http://www.mackeeper.zeobit.com>) and read express warranties about the software's utility, which were the same as (or substantially similar to) the representations described in Paragraph 20 and depicted in Figures 1–6 above.

41. Relying on these representations—namely, ZeoBIT's claim that MacKeeper would "Clean [her] Mac quickly and safely," "[F]ind[] and remove[] all junk files on [her] hard drive," "Protect [her] Mac from all kinds of Internet fraud," "Increase [her] Security level," "Optimize [her] Mac," and otherwise "Speed up [her] Mac"—Yench downloaded the free trial version of MacKeeper and then purchased the full version of the software for \$39.95.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> In or around January 2014, Plaintiff Yench was automatically charged \$10.00 for

42. Yet, the MacKeeper software that Yenchu purchased did not—and could not—perform as advertised by ZeoBIT. In reality, ZeoBIT designed the software to arbitrarily and invariably return false errors as detailed in Section II.B above. As such, Yenchu purchased a product under the falsely created belief that MacKeeper was capable of honestly and accurately assessing the condition of her Mac and was otherwise able to remove harmful errors and threats from her Mac as promised.

43. But for ZeoBIT's descriptions about MacKeeper's utility, Yenchu would not have purchased and continued to use the software.

### CLASS ALLEGATIONS

44. **Class Definition:** Plaintiff Holly Yenchu brings this action pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(2) and (3) on behalf of herself and a class and subclass of similarly situated individuals, defined as follows:

**Class:** All individuals and entities in the United States that have purchased MacKeeper.

**Pennsylvania Subclass:** All individuals and entities in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that have purchased MacKeeper.

Excluded from the Class and Pennsylvania Subclass (collectively referred to as the “Class,” unless otherwise indicated) are (1) Defendant, Defendant's agents, subsidiaries, parents, successors, predecessors, and any entity in which the Defendant or its parents have a controlling interest and their current and former employees, officers, and directors, (2) the Judge or Magistrate Judge to whom this case is assigned and the Judge's or Magistrate Judge's immediate family, (3) persons who execute and file a timely request for exclusion, (4) persons whose claims in this matter have been finally adjudicated on the merits or otherwise released,

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MacKeeper's “annual renewal.”



and (5) the legal representatives, successors, or assigns of any such excluded person.

45. **Numerosity:** The exact number of Class members is unknown to Plaintiff at this time, but on information and belief, ZeoBIT has sold its software to thousands of Class members throughout the country, making joinder of each individual member impracticable. Ultimately, the Class members will be easily identified through ZeoBIT's records.

46. **Commonality and Predominance:** Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Class and predominate over any questions affecting only individual members, including:

- a) Whether Defendant intentionally marketed MacKeeper to deceive consumers into purchasing it;
- b) Whether Defendant intentionally misrepresented the functionality of the MacKeeper software;
- c) Whether Defendant's conduct described herein constitutes a violation of the Pennsylvania Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law, 73 P.S. §§ 201-1, *et seq.*;
- d) Whether Defendant's conduct described herein constitutes fraudulent inducement;
- e) Whether Defendant's conduct described herein constitutes breach of contract; and
- f) Whether Defendant has been unjustly enriched as a result of its conduct described herein.

47. **Typicality:** Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the other members of the Class. Plaintiff and the Class sustained damages as a result of ZeoBIT's uniform wrongful

conduct during transactions with Plaintiff and the Class.

48. **Adequate Representation:** Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the Class and has retained counsel competent and experienced in complex litigation and class actions. Plaintiff has no interests antagonistic to those of the Class, and ZeoBIT has no defenses unique to Plaintiff. Plaintiff and her counsel are committed to vigorously prosecuting this action on behalf of the members of the Class, and have the financial resources to do so. Neither Plaintiff nor her counsel has any interest adverse to those of the other members of the Class.

49. **Policies Generally Applicable to the Class:** This class action is appropriate for certification because ZeoBIT has acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the Class, thereby requiring the Court's imposition of uniform relief to ensure compatible standards of conduct toward the members of the Class and making final injunctive relief appropriate with respect to the Class as a whole. ZeoBIT's policies challenged herein apply and affect members of the Class uniformly and Plaintiff's challenge of these policies hinges on ZeoBIT's conduct with respect to the Class as a whole, not on facts or law applicable only to Plaintiff. ZeoBIT has acted and failed to act on grounds generally applicable to Plaintiff and the other members of the Class, requiring the Court's imposition of uniform relief to ensure compatible standards of conduct toward members of the Class.

50. **Superiority:** This class action is also appropriate for certification because class proceedings are superior to all other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy and joinder of all members of the Class is impracticable. The damages suffered by the individual members of the Class will likely be small relative to the burden and expense of individual prosecution of the complex litigation necessitated by ZeoBIT's wrongful conduct.

Thus, it would be virtually impossible for the individual members of the Class to obtain effective relief from ZeoBIT's misconduct. Even if members of the Class could sustain such individual litigation, it would not be preferable to a class action because individual litigation would increase the delay and expense to all parties due to the complex legal and factual controversies presented in this Complaint. By contrast, a class action presents far fewer management difficulties and provides the benefits of single adjudication, economy of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single court. Economies of time, effort, and expense will be fostered and uniformity of decisions will be ensured.

51. Plaintiff reserves the right to revise the foregoing "Class Allegations" and "Class Definition" based on facts learned in discovery.

#### **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

#### **Violations of the Pennsylvania Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law**

**73 P.S. §§ 201-1, *et seq.***

**(On Behalf of Plaintiff and the Pennsylvania Subclass)**

52. Plaintiff incorporates the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.

53. ZeoBIT engaged in a deceptive and misleading course of conduct intended to deceive and significantly mislead consumers into purchasing its MacKeeper software. This course of conduct, and specifically ZeoBIT's marketing practices, constitute unconscionable commercial practices, deception, fraud, false promises, false pretenses, and/or misrepresentations that violate the Pennsylvania Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law, 73 P.S. §§ 201-1, *et seq.* ("UTPCPL").

54. ZeoBIT is a "person" as defined by Section 201-2(2) of the UTPCPL.

55. ZeoBIT is/was engaged in "trade" and "commerce" as defined by Section 201-2(3) of the UTPCPL.

56. As described herein, ZeoBIT engaged in fraudulent and/or deceptive conduct that

created the likelihood of confusion or misunderstanding, as defined the UTPCPL, by, *inter alia*: (i) publicly misrepresenting MacKeeper's functionality, including through false and misleading assertions like those listed in Paragraphs 16–18 and 20, and otherwise described throughout Section II of this Complaint; (ii) using these misrepresentations to induce consumers into purchasing MacKeeper; and (iii) selling a full version of the software that doesn't function as advertised, as described in Section II.B. *See* 73 P.S. § 201-2(4)(xxi).

57. Specifically, ZeoBIT affirmatively represented to Plaintiff and the Pennsylvania Subclass that MacKeeper would honestly and accurately scan their Macs for harmful problems, increase computer speed and stability, and protect their Macs from security and privacy threats as shown by ZeoBIT's statements in Paragraphs 16–18 and 20, and otherwise described in Section II above.

58. ZeoBIT's representations were, in fact, false. MacKeeper does not (and cannot) actually perform the level of utility promised by ZeoBIT through its marketing materials.

59. Furthermore, the *only reason* that consumers would purchase MacKeeper is to repair harmful errors, improve computer performance, and eliminate privacy and security threats as advertised by ZeoBIT.

60. Reasonable consumers are likely to be, and Plaintiff and the Pennsylvania Subclass were, deceived by ZeoBIT's misrepresentations about the full scope and benefits provided by MacKeeper.

61. ZeoBIT's deceptive and misleading actions were perpetuated while marketing and selling its MacKeeper software product, and therefore occurred during the course of its business practices.

62. ZeoBIT's fraudulent and unfair conduct directly and proximately caused Plaintiff

and the Pennsylvania Subclass actual monetary damages in the form of the purchase price (or some portion thereof) that they paid for MacKeeper (typically \$39.95).

63. Accordingly, and pursuant to 73 P.S. § 201-9.2(a), Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and the Pennsylvania Subclass, seeks: (i) injunctive and equitable relief as is necessary to protect the interests of Plaintiff and the Pennsylvania Subclass by requiring ZeoBIT to cease the unlawful activities discussed herein; (ii) actual damages or statutory damages of one hundred dollars (\$100), whichever is greater; and (iii) reasonable costs and attorneys' fees. Plaintiff further alleges that ZeoBIT's conduct and misrepresentations were made with malice and in conscious disregard of Plaintiff's and the Pennsylvania Subclass's rights, thereby entitling them to treble damages pursuant to 73 P.S. § 201-9.2(a).

**SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**  
**Fraudulent Inducement**  
**(On Behalf of Plaintiff and the Class)**

64. Plaintiff incorporates the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.

65. As depicted in Figures 1–6, Paragraphs 16–18 and 20, and throughout all Counts of this Complaint, ZeoBIT has used, and continues to use, marketing tactics it knows or reasonably should know are false and misleading.

66. To induce Plaintiff and the Class into purchasing MacKeeper, ZeoBIT affirmatively represented to Plaintiff and the Class that MacKeeper provides a certain level of utility. Specifically, ZeoBIT represented to Plaintiff and the Class that MacKeeper would honestly and accurately scan their computers for harmful problems, increase computer performance, and protect their Macs from security and privacy threats, as described in Section II.

67. ZeoBIT's affirmative representations regarding MacKeeper were, in fact, false. In particular, MacKeeper does not—and cannot—improve a computer's condition in the manner described by ZeoBIT. Likewise, ZeoBIT's programmatic design of its software is deceptive

because it doesn't meaningfully evaluate a Mac's condition and instead was engineered to invariably report that the computer is at-risk and needs repair.

68. The utility of a consumer product is a material term of any transaction because it directly affects a consumer's choice of, or conduct regarding, whether to purchase a product. Any deception or fraud related to the utility of a product is materially misleading.

69. As MacKeeper's developer, ZeoBIT knew that its representations about MacKeeper's utility were false. ZeoBIT intentionally designed its public representations to mislead consumers about MacKeeper's utility.

70. ZeoBIT also intentionally made these misrepresentations to induce Plaintiff and the Class to rely on them and purchase MacKeeper.

71. Average consumers lack the requisite technical expertise to independently gauge MacKeeper's underlying functionality, and thus take ZeoBIT's statements regarding its utility at face value. Plaintiff and the Class justifiably relied upon ZeoBIT's misrepresentations by purchasing MacKeeper. They would not have purchased MacKeeper but for its misrepresentations.

72. By using false and deceptive marketing tactics (and designing MacKeeper to falsely generate reports about a Mac's condition), ZeoBIT has engaged in fraudulent practices designed to mislead and deceive consumers into purchasing (and continuing to use) MacKeeper.

73. As a result of their reasonable reliance on ZeoBIT's misrepresentations, Plaintiff and the Class have been damaged in the amount of the difference between the purchase price they paid for MacKeeper (typically \$39.95) and its true value, as reflected by the software's actual utility.

74. Plaintiff therefore prays for relief in the amount of the difference between the

purchase price she and the Class paid for MacKeeper and its actual value. Plaintiff further alleges that ZeoBIT's conduct and misrepresentations were made with malice and in conscious disregard for Plaintiff's and the Class's rights, thereby entitling them to punitive damages against ZeoBIT in an amount sufficient to deter such conduct in the future.

**THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**  
**Breach of Contract**  
**(On Behalf of Plaintiff and the Class)**

75. Plaintiff incorporates the foregoing allegations as if fully alleged herein.

76. Plaintiff and the members of the Class entered into agreements with ZeoBIT whereby ZeoBIT agreed to sell, and Plaintiff and the members of the Class agreed to purchase, MacKeeper, which was purportedly designed to honestly and accurately scan Macs for harmful problems, increase a Mac's speed and stability, protect users' computers from security threats, and otherwise perform the beneficial tasks depicted in Figure 1–6 and described in Section II. Based on the foregoing offer and representations, Plaintiff and the Class agreed to purchase MacKeeper.

77. Plaintiff and the Class paid, and ZeoBIT accepted, MacKeeper's purchase price (typically \$39.95), and therefore performed their obligations under the contracts.

78. As such, ZeoBIT voluntarily assumed a contractual obligation to provide Plaintiff and the Class with software that would perform the benefits discussed in Paragraphs 16–18 and 20, and as otherwise described in Section II above, honestly and accurately scan Macs for harmful problems, improve a Mac's speed and stability, and protect their computers from security threats.

79. ZeoBIT breached its contracts with Plaintiff and the Class by intentionally designing the full version of MacKeeper to mischaracterize the true condition of computers and further by failing to provide software that performed the tasks depicted in Figures 1–6 and

otherwise described in Section II. These obligations were material terms of the agreements.

80. ZeoBIT did not honor these obligations because MacKeeper could not increase the speed, performance, and stability of Plaintiff's and the Class's Macs, nor could it protect against privacy risks or remove harmful errors. That is, MacKeeper could not actually perform the beneficial tasks that it represented it would.

81. The aforementioned breaches of contract have directly and proximately caused Plaintiff and the Class economic injury and other damages, including in the form of the purchase price (or at least a portion thereof) of MacKeeper, because they purchased a product that could not perform as ZeoBIT promised, and therefore lacks the utility contracted for.

**FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**  
**Unjust Enrichment**  
***In the Alternative to Breach of Contract***  
**(On Behalf of Plaintiff and the Class)**

82. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations in Paragraphs 1–74 as if fully set forth herein.

83. If the Court finds Plaintiff's and the Class's contracts with ZeoBIT invalid, non-existent, or otherwise unenforceable, Plaintiff and the members of the Class may be left without any adequate remedy at law.

84. Plaintiff and the Class have conferred a benefit upon ZeoBIT in the form of the money ZeoBIT charged and collected from them for the purchase of the full version of the MacKeeper software, which did not and could not perform as ZeoBIT promised.

85. ZeoBIT appreciates and/or has knowledge of the benefits conferred upon it by Plaintiff and the Class.

86. Under principles of equity and good conscience, ZeoBIT should not be permitted to retain the monies belonging to Plaintiff and the Class that it unjustly received as a result of its



wrongful conduct described herein.

87. Accordingly, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and the other members of the Class, seeks restitution and disgorgement of all amounts by which ZeoBIT has been unjustly enriched.

#### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Holly Yench, on behalf of herself and the Class, respectfully requests that this Court issue an order:

A. Certifying this case as a class action on behalf of the Class and Pennsylvania Subclass defined above, appointing Plaintiff Yench as representative of the Class and Pennsylvania Subclass, and appointing her counsel as Class Counsel;

B. Declaring that ZeoBIT's actions, as set out above, constitute (i) violations of the Pennsylvania Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law, 73 P.S. §§ 201-1, *et seq.*, (ii) fraudulent inducement, (iii) breach of contract, and (iv) unjust enrichment (in the alternative to breach of contract);

C. Awarding damages, including statutory and treble damages where applicable, to Plaintiff and the Class and Pennsylvania Subclass in an amount to be determined at trial;

D. Awarding injunctive and other equitable relief as is necessary to protect the interests of the Class and Pennsylvania Subclass, including, *inter alia*, an order: (i) prohibiting ZeoBIT from engaging in the wrongful and unlawful acts described herein, (ii) requiring ZeoBIT to disclose and admit the wrongful and unlawful acts described herein, and (iii) requiring ZeoBIT to fully disclose the true functional capability of MacKeeper in the future;

E. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class and Pennsylvania Subclass their reasonable litigation expenses and attorneys' fees;

F. Awarding Plaintiff and the Class and Pennsylvania Subclass pre- and post-

judgment interest, to the extent allowable;

G. Entering such other injunctive and/or declaratory relief as is necessary to protect the interests of Plaintiff and the Class and Pennsylvania Subclass; and

H. Awarding such other and further relief as the Court deems reasonable and just.

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury for all issues so triable.

Respectfully submitted,

**HOLLY YENCHA**, individually and on behalf of  
all others similarly situated,

Dated: May 6, 2014

By: /s/ William R. Caroselli  
One of Plaintiff's Attorneys

William R. Caroselli (PA 00452)  
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*\*Pro hac vice* admission to be sought.

## CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

**I. (a) PLAINTIFFS**

HOLLY YENCHA, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Westmoreland County, PA  
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

Caroselli Beachler McTiernan & Conboy LLC  
20 Stanwix Street, 7th Floor, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222  
Tel: 412.391.9860

**DEFENDANTS**

ZeobIT LLC

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant \_\_\_\_\_  
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

**II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
- ☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant
- ☐ 3 Federal Question  
(U.S. Government Not a Party)
- ☒ 4 Diversity  
(Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

**III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES** (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- |   | PTF                                   | DEF                        |   | PTF                        | DEF                                   |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Citizen of This State                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State     | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4            |
| Citizen of Another State                | <input type="checkbox"/> 2            | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3            | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation  | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6            |

**IV. NATURE OF SUIT** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability <b>PERSONAL PROPERTY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other <b>LABOR</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act <b>IMMIGRATION</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 <b>PROPERTY RIGHTS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark <b>SOCIAL SECURITY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) <b>FEDERAL TAX SUITS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
<b>REAL PROPERTY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	<b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education	<b>PRISONER PETITIONS</b> <b>Habeas Corpus:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty <b>Other:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement			

**V. ORIGIN** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☒ 1 Original Proceeding
- ☐ 2 Removed from State Court
- ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court
- ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened
- ☐ 5 Transferred from Another District (specify)
- ☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation

**VI. CAUSE OF ACTION**

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):  
28 U.S.C. 1332(d)(2)

Brief description of cause:

Violations of 73 P.S. §§ 201-1, et seq., fraudulent inducement, breach of contract, and unjust enrichment.

**VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:**

☒ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.

DEMAND \$  
5,000,000.00

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

JURY DEMAND: ☒ Yes ☐ No

**VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY**

(See instructions):

JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCKET NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

DATE

05/06/2014

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

/s/ William R. Caroselli

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_

APPLYING IFP \_\_\_\_\_

JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_

MAG. JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_

JS 44AREVISED June, 2009  
IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA  
THIS CASE DESIGNATION SHEET MUST BE COMPLETED

**PART A**

This case belongs on the ( ☐ Erie ☐ Johnstown ☒ Pittsburgh) calendar.

1. **ERIE CALENDAR** - If cause of action arose in the counties of Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, McKean, Venang or Warren, OR any plaintiff or defendant resides in one of said counties.
2. **JOHNSTOWN CALENDAR** - If cause of action arose in the counties of Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Clearfield or Somerset OR any plaintiff or defendant resides in one of said counties.
3. Complete if on **ERIE CALENDAR**: I certify that the cause of action arose in \_\_\_\_\_ County and that the \_\_\_\_\_ resides in \_\_\_\_\_ County.
4. Complete if on **JOHNSTOWN CALENDAR**: I certify that the cause of action arose in \_\_\_\_\_ County and that the \_\_\_\_\_ resides in \_\_\_\_\_ County.

**PART B** (You are to check ONE of the following)

1. ☐ This case is related to Number \_\_\_\_\_. Short Caption \_\_\_\_\_.
2. ☒ This case is not related to a pending or terminated case.

**DEFINITIONS OF RELATED CASES:**

**CIVIL:** Civil cases are deemed related when a case filed relates to property included in another suit or involves the same issues of fact or it grows out of the same transactions as another suit or involves the validity or infringement of a patent involved in another suit  
**EMINENT DOMAIN:** Cases in contiguous closely located groups and in common ownership groups which will lend themselves to consolidation for trial shall be deemed related.

**HABEAS CORPUS & CIVIL RIGHTS:** All habeas corpus petitions filed by the same individual shall be deemed related. All pro se Civil Rights actions by the same individual shall be deemed related.

**PART C**

**I. CIVIL CATEGORY** (Place **x** in only applicable category).

1. ☐ Antitrust and Securities Act Cases
2. ☐ Labor-Management Relations
3. ☐ Habeas corpus
4. ☐ Civil Rights
5. ☐ Patent, Copyright, and Trademark
6. ☐ Eminent Domain
7. ☐ All other federal question cases
8. ☐ All personal and property damage tort cases, including maritime, FELA, Jones Act, Motor vehicle, products liability, assault, defamation, malicious prosecution, and false arrest
9. ☒ Insurance indemnity, contract and other diversity cases.
10. ☐ Government Collection Cases (shall include HEW Student Loans (Education), V A Overpayment, Overpayment of Social Security, Enlistment Overpayment (Army, Navy, etc.), HUD Loans, GAO Loans (Misc. Types), Mortgage Foreclosures, SBA Loans, Civil Penalties and Coal Mine Penalty and Reclamation Fees.)

I certify that to the best of my knowledge the entries on this Case Designation Sheet are true and correct

Date: May 6, 2014

/s/ William R. Caroselli

ATTORNEY AT LAW

NOTE: ALL SECTIONS OF BOTH ÔŠPRU MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE CASE CAN BE PROCESSED.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44**

## Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- (b) County of Residence.** For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys.** Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction.** The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.  
 United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.  
 United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.  
 Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.  
 Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**)
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit.** Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerk(s) in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- V. Origin.** Place an "X" in one of the six boxes.  
 Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.  
 Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.  
 Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.  
 Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.  
 Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.  
 Multidistrict Litigation. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.
- VI. Cause of Action.** Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. Requested in Complaint.** Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.  
 Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction.  
 Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases.** This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

**Date and Attorney Signature.** Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Civil Action No. \_\_\_\_\_

**PROOF OF SERVICE***(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))*

This summons for *(name of individual and title, if any)* \_\_\_\_\_  
 was received by me on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ I personally served the summons on the individual at *(place)* \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_; or

☐ I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with *(name)* \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,  
 on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_, and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or

☐ I served the summons on *(name of individual)* \_\_\_\_\_, who is  
 designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of *(name of organization)* \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_; or

☐ I returned the summons unexecuted because \_\_\_\_\_; or

☐ Other *(specify)*: \_\_\_\_\_

My fees are \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for travel and \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for services, for a total of \$ 0.00.

I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Server's signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed name and title*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Server's address*

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc: